



Volume

77

November/December 2005

A bimonthly audio magazine
of contemporary culture
& Christian conviction

more on

C. S. Lewis and Narnia

Alan Jacobs's *The Narnian: The Life and Imagination of C. S. Lewis* (HarperSanFrancisco) is a delightful volume by someone who admires but does not worship Lewis. Peter J. Schakel's *The Way Into Narnia: A Reader's Guide* (Eerdmans, 2005) seems ideal for the first-time Lewis reader. *Into the Wardrobe: C. S. Lewis and the Narnia Chronicles* (Jossey-Bass, 2005) is written by David C. Downing, who has written three earlier books about Lewis: *Planets in Peril: A Critical Study of C. S. Lewis's Ransom Trilogy* (Univ. of Mass. Press, 1992), *The Most Reluctant Convert: C. S. Lewis's Journey to Faith* (InterVarsity, 2002), and *Into the Region of Awe: Mysticism in C. S. Lewis* (InterVarsity, 2005). *Not-a-Tame Lion* (Tyndale, 2005) is by Bruce L. Edwards (a guest on volume 32 of the *Journal*), who looks at various moral and spiritual themes as discovered or exemplified by individual characters in the *Chronicles*. *A Reader's Guide Through the Wardrobe* (InterVarsity, 2005), by Leland Ryken and Marjorie Lamp Mead, is especially suited for group study. Among other recent biographical studies is *Seeking the Secret Place: The Spiritual Formation of C. S. Lewis* (Brazos, 2004), by Lyle W. Dorset, which looks at Lewis's private devotional life and his correspondence. Originally published in 1973, *C. S. Lewis: Images of His World* (Eerdmans), assembled by Clyde S. Kilby and photographer Douglas Gilbert is the best sort of coffee table book, with images of Lewis, his friends, and his many haunts. Kilby's *The Christian World of C. S. Lewis* (Eerdmans, 1964) was one of the first American studies of Lewis's writings. Chad Walsh's *The Literary Legacy of C. S. Lewis* (Harcourt, 1979) is a similarly broad study by a poet and teacher. Gilbert Meilaender's 1978 *The Taste for the Other: The Social and Ethical Thought of C. S. Lewis* (Eerdmans) was reissued in 1998, but is now out of print (visit your library or used bookstore). On volume 13 of the *Journal*, Armand M. Nicholi discussed the class he has taught for years comparing Lewis's ideas on many matters with those of Sigmund Freud. His thoughts were compiled in *The Question of God: C.S. Lewis and Sigmund Freud Debate God, Love, Sex, and the Meaning of Life* (Free Press, 2002), a book then converted into a PBS special (remember, you heard it

On this issue

- 1 Introduction
- 2 **Eric Miller**, on the conserving radicalism and revolutionary traditionalism of Christopher Lasch
- 3 **Lisa de Boer**, on the depiction of everyday humanity in northern European post-Renaissance painting
- 4 **Peter J. Schakel**, on seeing *The Chronicles of Narnia* as fairy tales, not just Christian allegory
- 5 **Alan Jacobs**, on how *The Chronicles of Narnia* reveal much of C. S. Lewis's thinking on almost everything, and on how Lewis's imagination was prepared to write such books
- 6 **Alan Jacobs**, with more on *The Narnian: The Life and Imagination of C. S. Lewis*

first here!). *The Pilgrim's Guide: C. S. Lewis and the Art of Witness* (Eerdmans, 1998), edited by David Mills, contains essays by Harry Blamires, Kalistos Ware, David Mills, Thomas Howard, and Kendall Harmon. Kathryn Lindskoog's *Finding the Landlord: A Guidebook to C.S. Lewis's Pilgrim's Regress* (Cornerstone, 1997) explains one of Lewis's most difficult books. You'll have to go to a library for Robert Houston Smith's *Patches of Godlight: The Pattern of Thought in C. S. Lewis* (Georgia, 1981), which looks at Lewis's assumptions about the true, the good, the beautiful, and several other major matters. A few recent books look at themes in Lewis's apologetics writings: *Lewis Agonistes: How C. S. Lewis Can Train Us to Wrestle With the Modern and Postmodern World* (Broadman & Holman, 2003), by Louis Markos; Victor Reppert's *C. S. Lewis's Dangerous Idea: In Defense of the Argument from Reason* (InterVarsity, 2003); and Art Lindsley's *C. S. Lewis's Case for Christ: Insights from Reason, Imagination and Faith* (InterVarsity, 2005).

Other Books Mentioned

Eric Miller's "Pilgrim to an Unknown Land" is published in *Figures in the Carpet: Finding the Human Person in the American Past* (Eerdmans, 2006); Lisa de Boer's "A Comic Vision?" is published in *A Broken Beauty* (Eerdmans, 2005).



The **MARS HILL AUDIO** *Journal* is produced at our studio in rural central Virginia, outside of historic Charlottesville. The *Journal* is one of several audio products we distribute, all of them intended to encourage greater wisdom about interaction with contemporary culture.

If you would like more information about our work, please request a free catalog by calling 800.331.6407, consulting our online resources at www.marshillaudio.org, or writing to P.O. Box 7826, Charlottesville, Virginia 22906-7826.